

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Chairman;
Michael Kubayanda, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Ann C. Fisher; and
Ashley E. Poling

Modifications of Mail Classification
Schedule for International Mail

Docket No. MC2020-27

ORDER APPROVING
MINOR CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

(Issued December 4, 2019)

I. INTRODUCTION

On November 15, 2019, the Postal Service filed a notice of classification change pursuant to Commission rule 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90.¹ For the reasons discussed below, the Commission approves the proposed change.

II. BACKGROUND

The Postal Service proposes changes to the country price list for international mail that appears in Part D of the Mail Classification Schedule (MCS). Notice at 1. The proposed change adds a country listing for the Republic of South Sudan to reflect its independence

¹ Notice of United States Postal Service of Minor Classification Changes, November 15, 2019 (Notice).

from Sudan. *Id.* at 2. It also revises the MCS to reflect products that are offered to the Republic of South Sudan, without changing the products or price groups applicable to such products. *Id.* The Postal Service states that the purpose of these minor modifications is “to conform to official sources and improve the accuracy of the product descriptions in the MCS.” *Id.* at 1.

The Postal Service maintains that the proposed changes satisfy the requirements of 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90 because the changes should result in a more accurate representation of the Postal Service’s offerings by allowing mailers to more precisely locate pertinent information. *Id.* The Postal Service also states that the proposed changes do not significantly change the user experience for any product and there is no evidence that the changes will significantly impact competitors. *Id.* at 2. The changes are intended to take effect on January 26, 2020. *Id.* at 1.

On November 18, 2019, the Commission issued an order pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.91 establishing the present docket, appointing a Public Representative, and providing interested persons with the opportunity to comment.²

III. COMMENTS

The Public Representative submitted comments on December 3, 2019.³ The Commission received no other comments. The Public Representative concludes that the proposed mail classification changes comply with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90. PR Comments at 2. She agrees with the Postal Service that the proposed changes are, in fact, “minor corrections” of the MCS language. *Id.* She notes that the change more accurately reflects the Postal Service’s current offerings. *Id.* She also states that the proposed changes do not appear to significantly change the user experience for any product or significantly impact competitors. *Id.* She recommends that the Commission approve the proposed changes and revise the MCS to coincide with the Postal Service’s proposed effective date. *Id.*

² Notice and Order Concerning Minor Changes to Product Description, November 18, 2019 (Order No. 5312).

IV. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Postal Service filed these proposed changes pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90, which requires the Postal Service to submit minor corrections to ensure that product descriptions accurately represent current Postal Service offerings. Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.92, and for the reasons stated below, the Commission approves the proposed changes.

The paramount consideration in determining whether a classification change is a material change or a minor one is “the degree to which the proposed alteration affects the characteristics of the product.”⁴ In Docket No. RM2015-6, the Commission explained that factors for determining whether a change is material include whether the proposed change would significantly alter the user experience for the product and whether it would significantly impact competitors offering a similar service. See Order No. 2250 at 10.

The Commission finds that the Postal Service’s proposed changes are not material and will not affect the characteristics of any products. Additionally, the proposed changes do not significantly change the user experience for the product and there is no evidence that they will significantly impact competitors. The Commission agrees with the Public Representative’s determination that the proposed changes more accurately represent the Postal Service’s current offerings. Additionally, the Postal Service complied with all relevant procedural requirements of 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90(b) by filing notice of the changes more than 15 days before the intended effective date. For the foregoing reasons, the Commission approves the proposed changes.

³ Public Representative Comments, December 3, 2019 (PR Comments).

⁴ See Docket No. RM2015-6, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Changes and Corrections to the Mail Classification Schedule, November 14, 2014, at 9, 14 (Order No. 2250).

V. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

It is ordered:

1. The proposed classification changes are in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.90 *et seq.*, and are not inconsistent with any applicable provisions of title 39.
2. The Mail Classification Schedule language attached below the signature line of this Order is approved. The proposed minor classification changes will be implemented on January 26, 2020.

By the Commission.

Darcie S. Tokioka
Acting Secretary

CHANGES TO THE MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

The following material represents a change to the Mail Classification Schedule. The Commission uses two main conventions when making changes to the Mail Classification Schedule. New text is underlined. Deleted text is struck through.

Part D—Country Price Lists for International Mail

Country	Market Dominant SPFCMI ¹	Competitive						
		FCPIS ²	International Expedited Services			PMI ⁵	PMI Flat Rate Envelopes and Boxes ⁵	IPA & ISAL ⁶
			GXG ³	PMEI ⁴	PMEI Flat Rate Envelope ⁴			

M								

<u>South Sudan, Republic of</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>
